

Message Text

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73

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 /109 W

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R 301404Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5033

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A DECON 6/30/76

TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, XF

SUBJ: COMMENTS ON ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

REF: BRUSSELS 5838

1. EGYPTIAN INVITATION TO KERSTEN (PARA 3 OF REFTEL) REPRESENTS STEP-UP OF EGYPTIAN EFFORTS TO OPEN DIALOGUE WITH WESTERN LABOR AND RAISES POSSIBILITY OF EVENTUAL EGYPTIAN AFFILIATION TO WESTERN INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. THUS FAR, EGYPTIANS HAVE CONCENTRATED ON OPENING LINES OF COMMUNICATION, PRESUMABLY TO AVOID--AS ONE WELL-INFORMED NON-EGYPTIAN ARAB LABOR LEADER HAS SUGGESTED TO ME--GETTING TOO FAR OUT IN FRONT OF ARAB LABOR MAINSTREAM TOO QUICKLY. EVEN SO, EGYPTIANS WILL PROBABLY INDICATE TO KERSTEN THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ATTEND ICFTU CONGRESS AT MEXICO CITY AS OBSERVERS, IF INVITED.

2 MAJOR INHIBITING FACTOR FOR EGYPTIANS-- AND OTHER ARABS-- WHO MAY BE INTERESTED IN AFFILIATION WITH WESTERN LABOR BODIES HAS BEEN ICATU POSITION BARRING ITS NATIONAL AFFILIATES FROM JOINING OUTSIDE LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. TO GET AROUND THIS OBSTACLE, PRO-WESTERN LEBANESE LABOR LEADERS HAVE INCREASINGLY AFFILIATED THEIR RESPECTIVE FEDERATIONS TO ICFTU(PARA 5 OF REFTEL), WHILE LEAVING NATIONAL CONFEDERATION NOMINALLY AFFILIATED EXCLUSIVELY WITH ICATU. EGYPTIANS COULD EVENTUALLY TAKE SAME ROUTE.

3. POSSIBILITY ALSO EXISTS, HOWEVER, THAT EGYPTIANS MAY IN FUTURE DECIDE TO CHALLENGE ICATU POSITION. EGYPTIAN LABOR FEDERATION OFFICIAL HINTED AT THIS, DURING CONVERSATION AT CAIRO IN MAY. WHEN HE MADE DISTINCTION BETWEEN NON-AFFILIATION POLICY OF ICATU ITSELF (WHICH HE SAID HAD "WORKING RELATIONSHIPS". BUT NO FORMAL TIES, WITH WFTU AND WCL) AND THAT OF ITS NATIONAL AFFILIATES. NOTHING THAT SYRIA AND A FEW OTHER AFFILIATES HAD OPENLY JOINED WFTU, HE INDICATED EGYPTIAN LABOR HAD EVENTUAL OPTION OF OUTSIDE AFFILIATION AS WELL.

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